

reviewing safety precautions with their children and have developed a plan of action with their children should they be abducted.

Parents are responding proactively to the increased media attention and are taking the necessary steps to help keep their children safe. It is my hope that the Code Adam resolution will encourage our nation's retailers to follow suit. There is no reason why every large retail store should not be implementing this program.

That is why today I am introducing a resolution that commends those retail and public establishments that have instituted the Code Adam program and encourages all retailers across the nation to do the same. Companies like Wal-Mart, KMART, Gap and Marshall's should be commended for implementing the program and training employees to follow the proven Code Adam formula.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me and cosponsor this resolution. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the original cosponsors: Representatives LAMPSON, FOLEY, KAPTUR, MILLENDER-MCDONALD, BROWN of Florida, ACEVEDO-VILÁ, FROST, PAYNE, ROTHMAN, SCHIFF, WILSON of South Carolina, and WEXLER.

One of society's greatest responsibilities is to protect our children. We owe it to our kids to do everything we can to ensure their safety.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state my support for H.R. 1904 The Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Unfortunately, due to matters in my district I was not able to participate in this vote.

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 1904 I support this legislation because of the relief it provides to combat the challenges facing our forest system today. From hazardous fuel reduction to insect and disease infestation research, this bill gives our forest managers and our private citizens the money and technical assistance they need to help bring our forests back to health.

I believe H.R. 1904 will work to help alleviate the fire hazards that currently plague our forests. Our nation's forest system is overwhelmed with excess brush and foliage which create dangerous conditions with the dry summer season just around the corner. This bill provides thinning programs for up to 20 million acres of at-risk federal lands near communities and their water supplies.

H.R. 1904 also provides money and technical assistance to stop the growing problem of insect and disease infestation. In Southeastern Michigan for example, Forest Service managers are battling the Emerald Ash Borer. This insect has decimated the population of ash trees located in a six county area. Luckily officials have responded quickly and we are in the process of containing that threat. H.R. 1904 will assist in our fight against invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer and others around our country.

I am hopeful that the Senate will act quickly on this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, May 21, 2003, I was not able to cast my vote on Roll Call Vote 204. That vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1911, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance cooperation and the sharing of resources between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted Aye.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVA- TION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 330, the Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003. This bill incorporates many provisions of the Veterans' Memorials Protection Act, which I first introduced in the 104th Congress, and have fought to pass ever since.

Recently a memorial dedicated to the memory of soldiers killed in World War I was desecrated in Rockland County, New York, an area which I am proud to represent. Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice have no ability to defend their honor against senseless desecration, so we must do it for them. That is why I am so pleased that this measure is before the House today for our consideration.

Recognition of our veterans is an integral part of our national heritage. While veterans may not have created our democracy, they have continuously defended it and renewed America's promise through their efforts. While our memorials and monuments to veterans may not be as imposing as the Lincoln Memorial or the Washington Monument, the dedication and protection we provide them should be no less zealous.

We live in a greater and safer nation because of the dedication and bravery of our veterans. We are indebted to our veterans, because we know that freedom is not free, and it is our veterans who have paid a severe price for the freedom we enjoy. The memorials created in this honor deserve the greatest protection we can afford them.

Protecting the memory of their sacrifice is one manner in which we can repay our veterans. It is both fitting and proper that we should pass this legislation before the Congress recesses for Memorial Day. As a new generation of veterans return from the Persian Gulf, I am hopeful that this is a first step in Congress toward fulfilling our promises and obligations to these heroes. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that these protections will soon be passed by the House, so that this grateful nation can further preserve the memory of those who preserved our nation.

PUBLIC EMPLOYER'S RESTITUTION ACT

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, as Representatives in the United States Congress, we are tasked with finding solutions to problems that face our constituents. Sometimes these problems take a series of phone calls to the appropriate agencies for action; sometimes the solution is more complicated and requires legislative action. This is one such problem.

Earlier this year, I learned that the town of Clermont, Indiana had been a victim of embezzlement. The former treasurer of the town embezzled over seventy thousand dollars. A small amount when this body deals in billions of dollars, but I assure you Mr. Speaker it is a significant sum of money to Clermont.

The town's treasurer was subsequently prosecuted, found guilty and charged with financial restitution to the Town in the amount of over fifty-one thousand dollars. As of the end of 2002, the Town received only five hundred and ten dollars in restitution.

The former employee has a private pension as his only source of income. He has no incentive to find work, as any wages would be garnished. Under ERISA, civil judgment for restitution cannot be attached to the pension. So, Clermont loses out on fifty thousand dollars and the guilty avoids complying with the judgment.

The legislation I am offering, the "Public Employer's Restitution Act of 2003" is a narrowly tailored bill that would allow States and local governments to obtain restitution for the embezzlement of State and local funds.

Mr. Speaker, while we cannot make Clermont whole again, this legislation will prevent other small towns and communities across the country from being a victim of a circumvention of the law.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES R. BRANSON, RECIPIENT OF THE SHEPHERD COLLEGE PRESI- DENT'S AWARD FOR A LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Charles R. Branson, who on May 6th was the recipient of the 2003 Shepherd College President's Award for a Lifetime of Community Service.

Mr. Branson attended Shadyside Elementary School in Shepherdstown's West End. In 1937, he took the state proficiency exam for 8th graders (he was in the 7th grade at the time), passed with the highest score and was named the valedictorian of his class despite having started elementary school two years later than his peers because of an injury to his legs.

The only black high school in Jefferson County was at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Mr. Branson enrolled at Storer, and his family struggled to pay the \$16 a